



The Anglican Church of Australia  
Diocese of Wangaratta

## The Parish of Kilmore

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

**13th March 2015**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Refreshment Sunday**



**HYMNS: 217, 129, 519, 675.**

*Welcome to any guests to our worship  
please stay and enjoy hospitality with us after the service.*



*Introit hymn*

The Lord be with you:

**And also with you.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,

**Whose mercy endures for ever.**

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

*The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book*

## SENTENCE

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. *John 3.14–15*

## THE COLLECT

Everlasting God in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness prevent us from doing it; that in your light we may see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Numbers 21.4-9**

[The people of Israel complain about being in the desert because there is no food or water and they don't like the food God has provided. Then a plague of snakes attacks them and they ask for forgiveness and salvation. God instructs Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole so that anyone who is bitten by a snake can look at the bronze snake and be healed.]

*A reading from the book of Numbers*

The Israelites travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go round Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!' Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalms 107.1-3, 17-22**

[A song of praise for God who punished those who, in their foolishness disobeyed and rebelled, but who forgave and saved them when they called out to God.]

**Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious.**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say this,

those he redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

And gathered out of the lands from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south./R

Some were foolish and took a rebellious way,  
and were plagued because of their wrongdoing.  
Their soul abhorred all manner of food and drew near to the gates of death.  
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress./R

He sent forth his word and healed them, and saved them from destruction.  
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness  
and the wonders he does for his children.  
Let them offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy./R

## **SECOND READING**

## **Ephesians 2.1-10**

[Though we once followed the ways of the world and were dead in our sins, deserving judgement like anyone else, God saved us through Christ, as an act of grace that we did not earn. But God has created us to do good works in Christ.]

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians*

Paul writes, 'As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal Glory.

**Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal Glory.**

God so loved the world that he gave his | only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him should not perish,  
but have e- | ternal life.

**Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal Glory.**

[As the snake was lifted up on a pole in the desert, so Christ is to be lifted up so that all who seek to be saved may look to him. God sent him into the world to save, not condemn, but those who love darkness rather than light are already condemned, because they want to keep their actions hidden and not have them exposed.]

*A reading from the holy gospel according to John*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Gracious and Compassionate God, as we journey through our time of Lent, our time in deserts and low places, our time on the mountains and high places, we continue to seek you; but we need our eyes to be lifted, God, to the signs of your life among us, to the touch of your healing on our souls, to the cross that casts its liberating shadow across all human affairs.

God of love and goodness, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you gather your people from north and south, from east and west; hear our prayer for all peoples of the world; for all who are victims of hatred, oppression, terror and war; we pray for those whose greed, apathy or lust for power destroys the lives of others; for all who seek for peace and all who risk their lives to seek sanctuary in other places, for asylum seekers and refugees.

God of love and goodness, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks O God, that you revealed yourself in your son to bring forth salvation for all people; hear our prayers for your holy church in all places; for all who minister in cathedrals and chapels, in hospitals and laneways; for John our Bishop and for this parish and for those elected to office in our community; that we may all seek to bring others into the fullness of life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God of love and goodness, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all this community of which we are a part; for those who exercise leadership, and for the marginalised, excluded and forgotten; for our friends and

neighbours, our families and all those we share our lives; help us to turn from all that preoccupies us and look to the concerns of others.

God of love and goodness, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we give you thanks for healing and blessings received; we pray recovery for the sick and relief for those in distress; we pray for those in need, all who struggle with the demons of addiction; for those without hope; for those ending their days and those who mourn lost loved ones; we commend to you those known to us and those who have requested prayer;

**Requests for Prayer:** *Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Alex Impols, Cathy Moseley, & Melissa & family, Seth Gunther, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Tom Scrivens, Jenny Curry, Dianne Mitsakis, Mark Bennetts, Barry Watts, Joan Hiscock.*

God of love and goodness, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks O God that in Christ you welcome your people into everlasting life; we pray for the recently departed, for Lillian McLeod; and for those whose years' mind occurs this week.

**Year's mind:** *15th Jim Craker; 18<sup>th</sup> Jean Rice; 19th Irwin Land; 20th Jessie Faulks; 21<sup>st</sup> Norman Mable, David Begley.*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

God of love and goodness, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We dwell in your presentness O God, as the source of our being and life; hear us as we pray for ourselves .....; quieten our minds, touch our need, refresh our courage, enlarge our wonder, and open our hearts to your power, so we may repent and turn to you, for the sake of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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### Reflection on the readings

On the borders of the Promised Land a generation who had never lived in Egypt (or, at least were too young to remember living there if they had) complained about the hardship of the wilderness and longed to “return” to Egypt. Hundreds of years later, Jesus uses the story of the plague of snakes that attacked these rebellious Israelites, and the bronze snake that God instructed Moses to erect for their healing, to describe the healing work he had come to do. A key to both stories is the willingness to admit what plagues us. To find healing the Israelites had to “look up” to the bronze snake. This was an act of repentance, turning their eyes from the fiery snakes, to the God who had cared for them for decades and now offered them healing. Those who love darkness, says Jesus, will not look up to him when he is lifted up, because to do so would take repentance and an admission of their need. Those who are unashamed and willing to come to the light will look up and find life. In the same way the Psalmist tells that those who rebelled but then repented (the song seems to reference the Old Testament story) found healing and were forgiven and saved. Finally, in Ephesians we are reminded that it is God’s grace in Christ that saves us, which we appropriate simply by faith

– which means that we recognise our need, and turn to God to meet it. The invitation of the readings this week is for us to understand that God graciously and freely saves us, but, to live as “saved” people, we need to recognise our need, repent and look up to Jesus. The result of this, as Ephesians tells us, is a life of good works. We are saved by grace, changed by repentance and called to a life of meaning and abundance in the good works God has prepared for us. All of this means we face a decision today: Where do we need to repent, and how can this change our lives so that we become followers of Christ who bring grace to others through our good works? Such is the work of the Lenten journey.

*Adapted from John van de Laar (2015) [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)*

## Simnel Cake Blessing

*[the cake is processed with the gifts at the offertory and this offering prayer said then or before the dismissal.]*

Gracious and loving God, giver of all joy and bounty:

Receive from our hands this Simnel cake;

As its flour was once wheat scattered over our land, now mixed with the sweetest of spices and fruits and made one, so may we be one people.

May it be to us a symbol of your generosity and joy, and of our communion with you and with one another.

May we be refreshed and sustained for our pilgrimage to the foot of the cross and beyond to the joyous hope of your son’s resurrection.

Hear us, O Lord, as we pray in thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**



\*These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?\*

## NOTICES

**Fr Kim is away today and we thank Fr John Young for leading our worship this morning. There will be no service at Transfiguration today.**

**Parish Council** meets Wednesday 18th March @ Christ Church.

**Simmel Cake Bakers** - thank you to those who have prepared the Simmel cakes for our Refreshment Sunday.

**Christ Church Singers** anyone who would like to prepare music for Easter. Please see Fr Kim or Caroline if interested.

**Mother's Union Quiet Day** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March @ Christ Church Seymour starts 10.00am then Communion at 12.00 and lunch - Leader: Fr. Thomas Leslie.

**Cleaners needed for Christ Church new toilets**, if anyone would like to undertake this task please see Fr Kim.

**Christ Church Op Shop - Situations Vacant** – An energetic person is required for the position of **Op Shop Manager** - responsibility for Op Shop operations, training provided. **Volunteers** required to assist in the Op Shop; variety of positions and times available, training provided. Please contact Fr Kim or Dianne Dixon 5782 1446 for more information.

**Direct Debit Offerings** - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'; BSB 063-698; Account Number 1018 4649.

### Holy Week and Easter Services

**Palm Sunday 29th March** 9am Christ Church - Procession of Palms & Sung Eucharist  
11am St Matthew's, Broadford - Distribution of Palms & Holy Eucharist  
combined with congregation of St Stephen's, Tallarook

**Monday of Holy Week 14th April** 7.30am Christ Church, Holy Eucharist  
7.30pm St Stephens Tallarook – Meditation on Holy Week

**Tuesday of Holy Week 15th April** 7.30am Christ Church, Holy Eucharist  
7.30pm St Matthews Broadford – Meditation on Holy Week

**Wednesday of Holy Week 16th April** 7.30am Christ Church, Holy Eucharist  
7.30pm Christ Church, Kilmore – Meditation on Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday 17th April** 7.30am Christ Church - Holy Eucharist  
10.00am St Matthews, Broadford - Holy Eucharist

7.30pm Christ Church - Maundy Thursday & foot washing liturgy

**Good Friday 18th April** 9am Christ Church - Good Friday Liturgy

11am St Matthews, Broadford - Good Friday Liturgy

11am St Stephens Tallarook - Good Friday Liturgy

4pm Transfiguration - Pyalong - Good Friday Liturgy

**Easter Day 20th April** 7.00am Christ Church - Easter Vigil - Lighting of New Fire

8am Christ Church - Parish Breakfast

9am Christ Church - First Mass of Easter

11am St Stephens Tallarook - Mass of Easter combined with congregation of St Matthews

4pm Transfiguration, Pyalong - Mass of Easter

## Parish life this week

Third week of March

- Tuesday 17th [*Patrick, missionary to Ireland (d. 461)*]  
1.30pm St Matthews Friendship Group – Gavan Hall
- Wednesday 18th [*Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386)*]  
10.00am Eucharist Christ Church Seymour  
7.30pm Parish Council Meeting
- Thursday 19th [**Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**]  
10.00am Eucharist St Matthews Broadford  
10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade  
4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
- Friday 20th [*Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, bishop & teacher (d.687)*]  
10.00am - 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House  
7.00pm Lenten Study
- Saturday 21st [*Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr and liturgist (d.1556)*]  
10.00am- 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

### SERVICES

**Next Sunday: 22nd March 2015 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31.31-34; Psalm 119.9-16; Hebrews 5.5-14; John 12.20-33

Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No service this day
Christ Church	5.00pm	Church4Kids

### Parish Clergy:

**Rector** Revd Dr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155  
m 0407569343; [rector@anglicankilmore.org.au](mailto:rector@anglicankilmore.org.au)

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Visit our website [www.anglicankilmore.org.au](http://www.anglicankilmore.org.au) and our Facebook page

